

March 21st, 2007

**House Veterans Affairs Committee
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Hearing
Education Benefits for National Guard & Reserve Members
Congressman Christopher P. Carney– Statement for the Record
March 21, 2007**

Thank you, Chairwoman Herseth and Ranking Member Boozman for holding this important hearing regarding education benefits for National Guardsmen and members of the Selected Reserve.

I have introduced bipartisan legislation that would extend the GI Bill for National Guard or Reserve Members to have up to 10 years after completing military service to pursue a higher education. This bill extends a much deserved and needed benefit to our troops. The GI Bill has provided education to many of our nation's fine and honorable men and women, this bill will give the National Guard and Reserve members up to ten years to take advantage of this benefit.

Because the National Guard and Reserve are playing an ever more increasing role in combat operations, they are finding it harder to achieve their degree while enlisted. H.R. 1330 will better allow troops to serve their country honorably and reward themselves with a higher education when finished. We owe this to our troops and our military families back home.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to today's hearing. As a veteran and Lt. Commander still serving in the Navy Reserves, I look forward to working with this committee in support of better educational benefits for Reservists and National Guardsmen.

Sincerely,

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CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY
Member of Congress

